

Jessica Gathirimu, MPH, CPH



On March 26th, 2012, Jessica Gathirimu stepped into the role of MHD's Family and Community Health (FCH) Services Interim Director, overseeing more than 80 staff and nearly 20 programs which address health issues faced by individuals throughout their life cycle, such as infant mortality, teen pregnancy, nutrition, healthcare access, breast cancer and cervical cancer screening, and men's health.

The FCH Division's goals are to:

- Promote healthy birth outcomes and healthy child development, including school readiness
- Decrease racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality
- Improve the sexual and reproductive health of men, women and young people
- Promote healthy behaviors and healthcare access for all

Prior to this appointment, Ms. Gathirimu served as the Operations Manager of the Family and Community Health Services Division at the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

Ms. Gathirimu joined MHD in 2007 and worked extensively on the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), while representing MHD on numerous infant mortality initiatives throughout Milwaukee and Wisconsin. Prior to that, Ms. Gathirimu's passion for public health was cultivated and nurtured during her two years of Peace Corps service in Kenya as a Public Health Educator specializing in HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

Ms. Gathirimu is a member of the Wisconsin Public Health Association, serving on their annual conference planning committee. She is also a member of the Medical College of Wisconsin's Master of Public Health Advisory Committee and the Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society.

Ms. Gathirimu received her Master of Public Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2010 and her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 2002. She attained her Certification in Public Health (CPH) after receiving passing marks on the National Board of Public Health Examiners certification exam in 2010.